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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,702	02/22/2002	Gregory P. Fitzpatrick	BOC9-2001-0025 (271)	1267

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EXAMINER

DANIELS MENDEZ, PHYLLIS A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/081,702	FITZPATRICK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phyllis A. Daniels-Mendez	3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/28/2002</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. **Claims 1 - 33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by **Cheah** (US Patent# 7,003,546).

Claim 1: (Currently Amended) A method of connecting businesses through common interests and for facilitating businesses relationships among businesses comprising:

identifying a plurality of businesses to participate in an online business registry

C2, L13-21); The contact information includes information that is useful for identifying or contacting a registered user. When the registration pertains to a business, the contact information can also include a title, business name, and a Universal Resource Locator (URL) to an associated business website.

storing business profiles comprising business attributes in an online business registry **(C3, L27-28). Profile information is being stored within a database,** wherein each business profile is associated with one of the identified businesses and includes for each identified business a corresponding customer list **(C20, L57-64). The user can choose options based upon groups (Figure 18J) , and wherein the business attributes corresponding to each stored business profile are classified into one**

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of a plurality of access levels (C20, L57-64); **Different groups of contacts can be created, each with a list of options that can be selected by the user.**

responsive to a query from an inquiring business, searching said online business registry to locate at least one business having a business profile including at least one business attribute corresponding to said query (C3, L28-30); **Profile information is being stored in the database this information can be accessed by receiving a request from a particular requesting user seeking to receive user information from the central system for a particular registered user, determining whether the particular registered user agrees to release of the user information associated with the particular registered user.**

determining whether the inquiring business and at least one located business are competitors based upon a comparison of customer lists (C20, L23-27); **the requested party is accepting the request to exchange profile information with the limitations that only the restricted personal information of address and email (as well as name) are permitted to be exchanged. The requested party is being restriction. According to the specification restriction applies to the competitors.**

restricting access of the inquiring business to less than all of the plurality of access levels of business attributes of the at least one located business if the at least one located business and inquiring business are determined to be competitors (C20, L23-27); **the requested party is accepting the request to exchange profile information with the limitations that only the restricted personal information of address and email (as well as name) are permitted to be exchanged. The**

requested party is being restriction. According to the specification restriction is applied to the competitors;

establishing at least one communication link between said inquiring business and said located business according to at least one business attribute of said business profile of said located business, wherein said identified businesses comprise said inquiring business and said located business (C3, L3-14). **The communication link that is being established between the inquiring business and the located business is occurring via the network.**

Claim 2: The method of claim 1, wherein said online business registry conforms to Universal Description Discovery and Integration (UDDI) specification, and wherein said searching step comprises searching said online business registry according to said query, wherein said specified business attribute is common to said inquiring business (C28, L27-33). **UDDI is defined by Wikipedia as a platform-independent, XML-based registry for businesses worldwide to list themselves on the Internet. The Cheah invention details the following: The invention also allows the users to embed additional information when they exchange or impart their contact information or profile through use of cards. The additional information may contain any number of data types, including text, graphics, images, multimedia (audio/video), telephony, fax, HTML, XML, Applets, and http links.**

Claim3: The method of claim 1, wherein said storing step comprises storing business attributes selected from the group consisting of business identity information, business description information, and communications information (C15, L40-44). **The**

business card creation processing is, for example, utilized by a user of the client-side application in designing and creating a business card that would contain their profile information and be used to distribute to others in a controlled fashion.

Claim 4: The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing a communications link step comprises extracting said communications information from said business profile of said located business, wherein said online business registry categorizes business profiles according to at least one of business function and market segment (C16, L49-52). Hence, the selection may make use of some searching through the cards or placing the cards into categories to facilitate the selection of a desired one of the contact cards.

Claim 5: The method according to claim 3, wherein said storing step further comprises:
defining access rights to said business profiles (C12, L41-44); The PID is a unique number for each requestor (user). Next, the PID is associated 628 with the profile information for the requestor in the system database.

defining permissible communications links and points of contact as business attributes within said business profiles; and (C16, L64-67/C17, L1-2). In the screen illustration, the selection of the contact card is performed in contact card selection window. Category area and search area are used by a user to narrow the number of possible contact cards to choose from in the contact card selection window.

defining selected business attributes of said business profiles as private
**(C17,L28-36). Some attributes can be identified by the user as not being
displayed or made private.**

Claim 6: The method of claim 3, wherein said establishing a communications link step further comprises authenticating at least said inquiring business **(C8, L38-40). The PID generator is used to generate unique identifiers for the users that are registered with the information management and exchange system.**

Claim 7: A method of connecting businesses through common interests comprising:

storing business profiles for a plurality of businesses, said business profiles comprising business attributes in an online business registry; wherein each business profile identifies a corresponding business by market segment occupied and business function performed by the corresponding business **(C16, L49-52)**, and wherein the business attributes corresponding to each stored business profile are classified into one of a plurality of access levels **(C3, L33-36);**

responsive to a query from an inquiring business specifying at least one business attribute, locating within said online business registry business profiles corresponding to said specified business attribute **(C3, L28-30);**

determining whether the inquiring business and at least one located business are competitors based upon comparison of market segments and business functions corresponding to the inquiring business and at least on located business **(C20, L23-27);** restricting access of the inquiring business to less than all of the plurality of

access levels of business attributes of the at least one located business if the at least one located business and inquiring business (C20, L23-27);

identifying within said located business profiles references to other business profiles contained within said online business registry; and (C2, L13-21)

determining whether said other business profiles include business attributes corresponding to said query, wherein said plurality of businesses comprise businesses associated with said located business profiles, businesses associated with said other business profiles, and said inquiring business (C3, L28-30).

Claim 8: The method of claim 7, further comprising: if so, establishing a communications link between said inquiring business and at least one of said other businesses having a business attribute corresponding to said query (C3, L3-14).

Claim 9: The method of claim 7, wherein said locating step locates within said online business registry business profiles corresponding to said specified business attribute, wherein said specified business attribute is a business identity (C17, L4-5). **Once the contact card is selected, the selected contact card is displayed in a card display area. The card display area displays the selected contact card with its contact information.**

Claim 10: The method of claim 7, wherein said locating step comprises locating in said online business registry, business profiles associated with said specified business attribute of said query, wherein said specified business attribute is common to said inquiring business (C17, L4-5). **Contact information is common information that could be used between inquiring businesses.**

Claim 11: The method of claim 7, wherein said storing step comprises storing business attributes selected from the group consisting of business identity information, business description information, and communications information (**C15, L40-44**).

Claim 12: The method of claim 11, wherein said establishing a communications link step comprises extracting said communications information from said business profile of at least one of said other businesses (**C28, L27-33**).

Claim 13: The method according to claim 11, wherein said storing step further comprises: defining access rights to said business profiles (**C12, L41-42**); defining permissible communications links and points of contact as business attributes within said business profiles (**C16, L64-67**); and defining selected business attributes of said business profiles as private (**C20, L22-26**).

Claim 14: The method of claim 11, wherein said establishing a communications link step further comprises authenticating at least said inquiring business (**C8, L38-40**).

Claim 15: A system for connecting businesses through business profiles comprising:
an online business registry configured to store business profiles comprising business attributes, and said business attributes including communications information for establishing a communications link to each of the participating businesses (**C2, L13-21**);

a registration application configured to collect said business attributes of said business profiles and store said business profiles within said online business registry (**C2, L13-21**);

a search engine configured to receive queries and search said business profiles to locate at least one other business profile corresponding to said query, wherein one of said participating businesses utilizes said search engine to obtain information about another one of said participating businesses (**C16, L66-67/C17, L1-4**); and

a communications engine configured to establish a communications link between at least two businesses having profiles included in said online business registry, said communications link being established according to at least one business parameter within at least one of said business profiles associated with said at least two businesses, wherein said communications link is established by establishing one of a telephone call, a conference call and a video conference based upon communication information contained at least one of the plurality of business attributes (**C2, L13-18**).

Claim 16: A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a plurality of businesses to participate in an online business registry (**C2, L13-21**);

storing business profiles comprising business attributes in an online business registry (**C3, L27-28**), wherein each business profile is associated with one of the identified businesses and includes for each identified business a corresponding customer list (**C3, L33-36**) and wherein the business attributes corresponding to each stored business profile are classified into one of a plurality of access levels (**C20, L57-64**);

responsive to a query from an inquiring business, searching said online business registry to locate at least one business having a business profile including at least one business attribute corresponding to said query (**C3, L28-30**);

determining whether the inquiring business and at least one located business are competitors based upon a comparison of customer lists (**C20, L23-27**);

restricting access of the inquiring business to less than all of the plurality of access levels of business attributes of the at least one located business if the at least one located business and inquiring business are determined to be competitors (**C20, L23-27**);

establishing at least one communications link between said inquiring business and said located business according to at least one business attribute of said business profile of said located business, wherein said identified businesses comprise said inquiring business and said located business (**C3, L3-14**).

Claim 17: The machine-readable storage of claim 16, wherein said searching step comprises searching said online business registry according to said query, wherein said specified business attribute is common to said inquiring business (**C28, L27-33**).

Claim 18: The machine-readable storage of claim 16, wherein said storing step comprises storing business attributes selected from the group consisting of business identity information, business description information, and communications information (**C15, L40-44**).

Claim 19: The machine-readable storage of claim 18, wherein said establishing a communications link step comprises extracting said communications information from said business profile of said located business (**C16, L49-52**).

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Claim 20: The machine-readable storage according to claim 18, wherein said storing step further comprises: defining access rights to said business profiles (**C12, L41-42**); defining permissible communications links and points of contact as business attributes within said business profiles (**C16, L64-67**); and defining selected business attributes of said business profiles as private (**C17, L28-36**).

Claim 21: The machine-readable storage of claim 18, wherein said establishing a communications link step further comprises authenticating at least said inquiring business (**C8, L38-40**).

Claim 22: A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

storing business profiles for a plurality of businesses, said business profiles comprising business attributes in an online business registry; wherein each business profile identifies a corresponding business by market segment occupied and business function performed by the corresponding business (**C16, L49-52**), and wherein the business attributes corresponding to each stored business profile are classified into one of a plurality of access levels (**C3, L33-36**);

responsive to a query from an inquiring business specifying at least one business attribute, locating within said online business registry business profiles corresponding to said specified business attribute (**C3, L28-30**);

determining whether the inquiring business and at least one located business are competitors based upon comparison of market segments and business functions

corresponding to the inquiring business and at least one located business (C20, L23-27); restricting access of the inquiring business to less than all of the plurality of access levels of business attributes of the at least one located business if the at least one located business and inquiring business (C20, L23-27);

identifying within said located business profiles references to other business profiles contained within said online business registry; and (C2, L13-21)

determining whether said other business profiles include business attributes corresponding to said query, wherein said plurality of businesses comprise businesses associated with said located business profiles, businesses associated with said other business profiles, and said inquiring business (C3, L28-30).

Claim 23: The machine-readable storage of claim 22, further comprising:

establishing a communications link between said inquiring business and at least one of said other businesses having a business attribute corresponding to said query, wherein the communication link is established according to business attributes of said at least one other business (C3, L3-14).

Claim 24: The machine-readable storage of claim 22, wherein said locating step locates within said online business registry business profiles corresponding to said specified business attribute, wherein said specified business attribute is a business identity (C17, L4-5).

Claim 25: The machine-readable storage of claim 22, wherein said locating step comprises locating in said online business registry business profiles associated with said specified business attribute of said query, wherein said specified business attribute

is common to said inquiring business (**C17, L4-5**).

Claim 26: The machine-readable storage of claim 22, wherein said storing step comprises storing business attributes selected from the group consisting of business identity information, business description information, and communications information (**C15, L40-44**).

Claim 27: The machine-readable storage of claim 26, wherein said establishing a communications link step comprises extracting said communications information from said business profile of at least one of said other businesses, and wherein said online business registry conforms to a Universal Description Discovery and Integration (UDDI) specification (**C28, L27-33**).

Claim 28: The machine-readable storage according to claim 26, wherein said storing step further comprises:

defining access rights to said business profiles (**C12, L41-42**); defining permissible communications links and points of contact as business attributes within said business profiles (**C16, L64-67**); and defining selected business attributes of said business profiles as private (**C20, L22-26**).

Claim 29: The machine-readable storage of claim 26, wherein said establishing a communications link step further comprises authenticating at least said inquiring business (**C8, L38-40**).

Claim 30 (New): A method of connecting businesses through common interest comprising:

storing business profiles comprising business attributes in an online business registry (C2, L13-21);

responsive to a query from an inquiring business, searching said online business registry to locate at least one business having a business profile including at least one business attribute corresponding to said query and (C3, L28-30)

establishing at least one communications link between said inquiring business and said located business according to at least one business attribute of said business profile of said located business (C3, L3-14);

wherein said at least one communications link is established by establishing at least one of a telephone call, a conference call, and a video conference (C2, L13-18).

Claim 31 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the business attributes include communication information, and wherein the at least one communications link is established based upon the communication information (C16, L49-52).

Claim 32 (New): The method of Claim 31, wherein the communication information comprises at least one of a preferred contact time and a pre-selected contact person (C23, L12-14). **This communication information identifies the individual as having a first name, last name and e-mail address. Other types of communication information could be used as well.**

Claim 33 (New): The method of Claim 32, wherein the at least one communications link comprises a plurality of communications link, and wherein establishing at least one communications link further comprises selecting one of the plurality of communications

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links based on at least one of the preferred contact time and pre-selected contact person (C2, L13-18).

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. The following U.S. patent are cited to further show the best domestically patented prior art found by the examiner:

U.S. Pat. No. 6,832,377 Havemose

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phyllis Daniels Mendez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7657. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8am - 5:00pm.

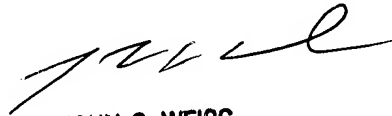
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7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned (571) 273-8300 for all official communications.

8. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Office of Initial Patent Examination whose telephone number is (703) 308-1202.



PDM
Patent Examiner
TC 3600
5/11/2006



JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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